insert the following paragraph:

--This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/558,099, filed April 25, 2000, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/466,435, filed December 17, 1999, now abandoned, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference into the subject application.--

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In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 252, 253, 264, 265, and 272-275 without prejudice or disclaimer to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of this claim in a future continuation or divisional application.

Please amend claims 235-237, 243-245, 249-251, 254, 258-259, 266-268, and 276-281 as follows:

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--235. (Amended) A process involving competitive binding for identifying a chemical compound which specifically binds to a mammalian SNORF72 receptor which comprises separately contacting cells, or a membrane preparation from such cells, expressing on their cell surface the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, with both the chemical compound and a second chemical compound known to bind to the receptor, and with only the second chemical compound, under conditions suitable for binding of such compounds to the receptor, and detecting specific binding of the chemical compound to the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, a decrease in the binding of the second chemical

compound to the mammalian SNORF72 receptor in the presence of the chemical compound being tested indicating that such chemical compound binds to the mammalian SNORF72 receptor; wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor has above 75% amino acid identity to the SNORF72 receptor encoded by (1) the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3 or (2) the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (ATCC Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446).--

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--236. (Amended) A process of claim 235, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor which has an amino acid sequence identical to (1) that encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (ATCC Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446) or (2) the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4.--

--237. (Amended) A process of claim 235, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a rat SNORF72 receptor which has an amino acid sequence identical to (1) that encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f (ATCC Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927) or (2) the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 25.--

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--243. (Amended) A method of screening a plurality of chemical compounds not known to bind to a mammalian SNORF72 receptor to identify a compound which specifically binds to the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, which comprises

(a) contacting cells, or a membrane preparation from such cells, transfected with, and expressing, DNA encoding the mammalian SNORF72 receptor with a

compound known to bind specifically to the mammalian SNORF72 receptor;

(b) contacting the cells of step (a) with the plurality of compounds not known to bind specifically to the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, under conditions permitting binding of compounds known to bind to the mammalian SNORF72 receptor;

(c) determining whether the binding of the compound known to bind to the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is reduced in the presence of the plurality of compounds, relative to the binding of the compound in the absence of the plurality of compounds; and if so

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(d) separately determining the binding to the mammalian SNORF72 receptor of each compound included in the plurality of compounds, so as to thereby identify any compound included therein which specifically binds to the mammalian SNORF72 receptor; wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor has above 75% amino acid identity to the SNORF72 receptor encoded by (1) the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3 or (2) the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (ATCC Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446).--

--244. (Amended) A method of claim 243, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor which has an amino acid sequence identical to (1) that encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (ATCC Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446) or (2) the amino

acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4.--

--245. (Amended) A method of claim 243, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a rat SNORF72 receptor which has an amino acid sequence identical to (1) that encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f (ATCC Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927) or (2) the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 25.--

C3

--249. (Amended) A process for determining whether a chemical compound is a mammalian SNORF72 receptor antagonist which comprises contacting cells transfected with and expressing DNA encoding the mammalian SNORF72 receptor with the compound in the presence of a known mammalian SNORF72 receptor agonist, under conditions permitting the activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, and detecting any decrease in mammalian SNORF72 receptor activity, so as to thereby determine whether the compound is a mammalian SNORF72 receptor antagonist; wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor has above 75% amino acid identity to the SNORF72 receptor encoded by (1) the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3 or (2) the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (ATCC Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446).--

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--250. (Amended) A process of claim 249, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor which has an amino acid sequence identical to (1) that encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (ATCC Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446) or (2) the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4.--

--251. (Amended) A process of claim 249, wherein the

mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a rat SNORF72 receptor which has an amino acid sequence identical to (1) that encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f (ATCC Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927) or (2) the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 25.--

C4

--254. (Amended) A process for determining whether a chemical compound specifically binds to and inhibits activation of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor, which comprises separately contacting cells producing a second messenger response and expressing on their cell surface the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, wherein such cells do not normally express the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, with both the chemical compound and a second chemical compound known to activate the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, and with only the second chemical compound, under conditions suitable for activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, and measuring the second messenger response in the presence of only the second chemical compound and in the presence of both the second chemical compound and the chemical compound, a smaller change in the second messenger response in the presence of both the chemical compound and the second chemical compound than in the presence of only the second chemical compound indicating that the chemical compound inhibits activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor; wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor has above 75% amino acid identity to the SNORF72 receptor encoded by (1) the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3 or (2) the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (ATCC Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446).--

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--258. (Amended) A process of any of claims 254, 255, 256 or 257, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor which has an amino acid sequence identical to (1) that encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (ATCC Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446) or (2) the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4.--

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--259. (Amended) A process of any of claims 254, 255, 256 or 257, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a rat SNORF72 receptor which has an amino acid sequence identical to (1) that encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f (ATCC Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927) or (2) the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 25.--

--266. (Amended) A method of screening a plurality of chemical compounds not known to inhibit the activation of a mammalian SNORF72 receptor to identify a compound which inhibits the activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor, which comprises:

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(a) contacting cells transfected with and expressing the mammalian SNORF72 receptor with the plurality of compounds in the presence of a known mammalian SNORF72 receptor agonist, under conditions permitting activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor;

(b) determining whether the extent or amount of activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is reduced in the presence of one or more of the compounds, relative to the extent or amount of

activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor in the absence of such one or more compounds; and if so

(c) separately determining whether each such compound inhibits activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor for each compound included in the plurality of compounds, so as to thereby identify any compound included in such plurality of compounds which inhibits the activation of the mammalian SNORF72 receptor; wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor has above 75% amino acid identity to the SNORF72 receptor encoded by (1) the nucleic acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:3 or (2) the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (ATCC Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446).--

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--267. (Amended) A method of claim 266, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor which has an amino acid sequence identical to (1) that encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (ATCC Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446) or (2) the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4.--

--268. (Amended) A method of claim 266, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a rat SNORF72 receptor which has an amino acid sequence identical to (1) that encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f (ATCC Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927) or (2) the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 25.--

C8

--276. (Amended) A process for preparing a composition which comprises a chemical compound identified by the

process of any of claims 235 or 243, recovering the compound free of any receptor, and admixing with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.--

--277. (Amended) The process of claim 276, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor which has an amino acid sequence identical to (1) that encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (ATCC Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446) or (2) the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4.--

--278. (Amended) The process of claim 276, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a rat SNORF72 receptor which has an amino acid sequence identical to (1) that encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.BS-rSNORF72-f (ATCC Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1927) or (2) the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 25.--

C8

--279. (Amended) A process for preparing a composition which comprises a chemical compound identified by the process of any of claims 249, 254 or 266, recovering the compound free of any receptor, and admixing with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.--

--280. (Amended) The process of claim 279, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a human SNORF72 receptor which has an amino acid sequence identical to (1) that encoded by the plasmid pEXJ.T3T7-hSNORF72-f (ATCC Patent Deposit Designation No. PTA-1446) or (2) the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4.--

--281. (Amended) The process of claim 279, wherein the mammalian SNORF72 receptor is a rat SNORF72 receptor